

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Turkmenistan
<b>Program Title:</b>	Democratic Culture and Institutions
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	120-0211
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$1,100,000 FSA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$100,000 FSA
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$1,124,000 FSA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2001
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	2005

**Summary:** Due to the stifling political environment in Turkmenistan, it is extremely difficult to measure program results or conduct full-scale democracy programming. Therefore, USAID's Democracy Program is fairly restricted. Specifically, USAID's assistance in strengthening democratic culture in Turkmenistan is limited to work in two areas: building stronger and more sustainable civic organizations; and a small effort at increasing the availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues by working with law students. Modest supplemental funds (\$100,000) have allowed USAID to bolster its NGO development program with additional resources for community development grants. Prior year unobligated funds include \$100,000 of FY 2002 Supplemental - FSA/NIS.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Civil society (\$820,000 FSA). USAID will provide funds to begin a new phase in our civil society program in Central Asia. USAID will support a network of at least three civil society support centers (CSSCs), each of which will serve as a key intermediary support organization for local civil society actors. Funds will be used to begin a grassroots community development/community advocacy program, based at each of the CSSCs. Support will be given for institutional grants to more advanced NGOs, thus helping them to become more sustainable and stronger advocates for social change. We expect over 1,000 NGO and community-based activists to receive training in FY03 on issues such as advocacy, strategic planning, organizational management, fundraising, and other issues pertaining to sustainable NGO work. Approximately 40 grants of varying sizes will be made to support community advocacy and national-level NGOs. Principal implementing partners are: Counterpart (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) (sub), and others to be determined through competition.

Increased information (\$280,000 FSA). USAID will continue its limited support by promoting law student exposure to international law and disseminating legal information to lawyers and government officials. In FY 2003, a law clinic "summer camp" for students will be held to explore legal issues intensively, and give Turkmen law students the opportunity to learn about vital international legal subjects that are not currently taught at the government-controlled state university. The Street Law program at Turkmen State University (TSU) law school will be expanded to include more law student participants. An expanded series of legal trainings and seminars will be conducted at TSU's Legal Resource Center. USAID will work on a limited basis with Turkmen legal advocacy clubs relating to the implementation of treaties to which Turkmenistan is a party, including the Aarhus Convention and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The principal implementing partner is the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) (prime).

#### FY 2004 Program:

Civil society (\$784,000 FSA). USAID will continue its civil society program with strengthening of the three CSSCs. USAID may place more emphasis on advocacy campaigns (if the environment permits) and strengthening the network of civil society support centers.

Increased information (\$340,000 FSA). USAID will continue to improve the awareness of legal rights among law students and others by supporting the legal resource center at Turkmen State University, conducting legal training sessions on international law topics, and disseminating legal information.

**Performance and Results:** The repressive environment in Turkmenistan precludes commissioning of a poll, which is our primary indicator for measuring results. While USAID met targets, the targets have been set to a modest level. Despite difficult challenges in Turkmenistan, limited democracy work is possible at the grassroots level. Our local counterparts are true trailblazers, who are willing to advocate for small-scale change. Some of the most admirable work is carried out by our NGO partners. In Turkmenistan, most NGO programs target gender or social issues, such as disability rights, consumer protection, or environmental issues. Assistance helps keep hope alive and civil society prepared for a more active role in the future. Nationwide or local political advocacy is now virtually non-existent.

Supplemental funds are being used to bolster USAID's NGO development program to provide more small grants to NGOs and community activists. The grants component of the USAID NGO program aims to reinforce technical assistance and training directed at building sustainable civil society organizations, promoting volunteerism, advancing social partnership, mobilizing communities, and building coalitions.

Overall, the NGO sector in Turkmenistan remains the weakest of the former Soviet Union republics. This year there was a slight change in the NGO environment as measured by the NGO Sustainability Index. The index revealed an increase in NGO advocacy, although advocacy is limited to local or non-political issues. Also, the number of active NGOs in Turkmenistan increased from 156 in 2001 to 267 by April 2002. However, not a single NGO was able to register over the past year. Most NGOs continue to work without proper registration. At the request of President Niyazov, USAID will provide assistance with drafting an NGO law. The Government's commitment to adopting and implementing such a law, however, remains questionable.

Three USAID-funded civil society support centers are helping Turkmen NGOs work effectively by providing training, information resources, and advisory services. With the help of the civil society support centers, NGOs can recruit volunteers, work in partnership with local businesses, and mobilize the community to solve local issues. A prime example is EcoCenter, which recently held a press conference to announce the results of its USAID-funded activities. In the past year, EcoCenter provided services to 2,084 people. They trained 1,048 people on the ecological system of Turkmenistan and how citizens can play a role in keeping Turkmenistan clean. Local press attended this event and several newspapers published reports. Although not registered, EcoCenter has been able to complete activities to better the lives of the people of Turkmenistan. USAID attempts to build a democratic culture in Turkmenistan by focusing on the next generation. USAID provides training and assistance to law students. Our goal is to equip these students with the necessary tools to help advocate for change. With the Eurasia Foundation, USAID supported the opening of a new legal library at Turkmen State University, the only full-scale legal resource center in the country. Law students and lawyers can access the internet, conduct legal research, and participate in substantive legal training sessions at the library. Another noteworthy law student activity was Turkmenistan's participation in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition. This competition brings law students from all over the world to Washington, D.C. to argue different positions of a timely international law issue. Last year was the first time the Turkmen government allowed a team to represent Turkmenistan at this event. USAID's implementing partner coached and prepped the students before the competition. While the Turkmen team did not win any awards, it was a great eye-opening experience for the students, who recognized the power of strong oral and written advocacy skills.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Turkmenistan

120-0211 Democratic Culture and Institutions	<b>FSA</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	
Obligations	1,035
Expenditures	613
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	1,035
Expenditures	613
Unliquidated	422
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds**</b>	
Obligations	100
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>	
Obligations	1,100
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	1,200
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	1,124
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	3,359

\*\*Prior Year Unobligated Funds includes \$100,000 of FY 2002 Supplemental - FSA/NIS.